Price rise of life saving drugs

1677. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the month-wise percentage of price-rise of life saving drugs during the last three years; and from January, 1991 to August. 1991; and

(b) what remedial steps Government have taken to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) This is a voluminious exercise and therefore the time and labour involved in collecting the requisite details will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. However, the figures in regard to the movement of the wholesale price index for drugs and medicines for the last three years are as under:—

(Base 1981-82=100)

Year whole sale price Index

1988-89—136.9

1989-90—140.4

1990-91—149.6

Overcharging of prices by drugs companies

1678. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the amounts assessed against the companies on account of overcharging of prices;

(b) when were these amounts communicated to the companies;

(c) whether any of these companies have deposited the amounts with Government;

(d) if so, names of the companies and amounts deposited by each and if not, what action has been taken against them;

(e) whether any of the companies have gone to court against the action taken by Government;

(f) if so, name of the company and ground on which petition has been filed; and

(g) when and in which court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (g) All the cases of alleged overcharging in respect of formulations names of which are mentioned in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 351 answered on 18th July, 1991 are still under examination of the Government. It would be possible for the Government to assess the overcharged amount only after the complete details as asked for from each company becomes available with it.

Overcharging the amount on the packs of drugs

1679. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what was the amount overcharged per pack on all the formulations referred to and since when the amount was being overcharged;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of Flagyl IV Injection, Metrogyl IV Injection and Infusion is being still overcharged and the producers are being shielded by Government;

(c) what is the price of each being charged at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any action against any drug company for overcharging the prices;

(e) whether Government are proposing to launch prosecution against these producers;

(f) if so, by when;

(g) whether Government have taken any step to assess the amount overcharged; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a), (d) to (h) All the cases referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 351 answered on 18th July, 1991 are still under consideration of the Government. The companies concerned have been advised to cooperate with the Government and furnish complete details without any further delay so as to avoid legal action under DPCO, 1987 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Government will not hesitate in prosecuting those companies who do not comply with Government's directions.

(b) and (c) Position is being ascertained from the concerned companies.

Flucort Range of formulations

1680. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 405 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) when Flucort Range of formulations were cleared from excise duty after the price reduction in March, 1990;

(b) when did the producer took last batch of Flucort range of formulations before March, 1990 and what was the total quantity;

(c) how many batches of flucort range of formulations taken in the year 1989 and what was the total quantity produced;

(d) whether it is a fact that the formulator has to implement prices within 15 days of reduction;

(e) if so, what is the exact date when the first reduction in price in March 1990 was implemented and when the second reduction effected in October, 1990 was implemented;

(f) whether it is a fact that producer has violated the provisions of Drugs Prices Control Order; and

(g) if so, what action has been taken against the producer under Essential Commodity Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) These details are not available with the Government.

(d) As per Para 16(3) of the DPCO 1987, each manufacturer or importer shall give effect to the price of a bulk drug or formulation, as the case may be, as fixed by the Government from time to time, within 15 days time from the receipt of the communication in that behalf from the Government.

(e) to (g) According to the available information, the Company had implemented the reduced prices fixed in March, 1990, in July, 1990. For the prices reduced in October, 1990. according to the Company they had implemented the prices in accordance with the provision contained in DPCO 1987. The matter is being examined further.

Technical Assistance to Sanskrit Institutions

1681. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sanskrit Institutions have undertaken Computer Based Sanskrit studies, education and research;

(b) how each centre is being assisted by advanced technological institution, the details thereof;

(c) whether these projects are being implemented satisfactorily in terms of objectives and time; and